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## Drinking Water Non-Detect Levels of MCHM in West Virginia Spill

Feb. 14 — Water sampling from a slurry spill at Patriot Coal's Kanawha Eagle Prep Plant shows non-detect levels of 4-methylcyclohexane methanol (MCHM), the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection said Feb. 13. About 108,000 gallons of slurry was released from a faulty pipeline Feb. 11, affecting roughly six miles of Fields Creek, which empties into the Kanawha River. Samples taken at five locations all tested below the reporting limit of .005 parts per million, the WVDEP said; a level of no more than 1 ppm for drinking water has been recommended by the Centers for Disease Control. State officials were concerned the slurry contained MCHM, the chemical that contaminated the drinking water of 300,000 West Virginians last month ([08 DEN A-13, 1/13/14](#)). Additional sampling is being conducted, the department said, adding the plant remains under an Imminent Harm Cessation Order, halting all work at the site except for ongoing cleanup activities. Patriot said, in a prepared statement, that it will continue to work with the WVDEP regarding slurry containment and remediation.